

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 232-2004



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: August 27, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jorge", written over the printed name of the City Manager.

**Subject: Letter to the City Commission from the Charter Review and Revision
Board**

The attached letter is being transmitted to the Mayor and members of the City Commission on behalf of the City of Miami Beach Charter Review and Revision Board.


JMG\REP

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

CITY HALL 1700 CONVENTION CENTER DRIVE MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33139

www.miamibeachfl.gov**Charter Review and Revision Board**

August 24, 2004

Honorable Mayor David Dermer and members of the City Commission:

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the actions taken at the August 12, 2004 Charter Review and Revision Board and to transmit the recommendations of the Board for your consideration, as they relate to the upcoming Special Commission meeting of August 30, 2004.

We understand that at this meeting, the City Commission may consider potential ballot questions regarding district elections for commission members and changing the City's form of government.

These charter related issues were thoroughly debated during the term of the Charter Review Board and after due consideration the Board previously concluded on April 9, May 29 and June 10, 2003, that there should be no change to the City Charter. The issue of district elections for commission members is an extremely complicated matter that has been considered by Miami Beach in the past, including twelve years ago during the last charter review process, during the deliberations of the 1993 Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Diversity Issues and the 1994 Voting Rights lawsuit filed by Hispanic voters in the City of Miami Beach. This issue is likely to elicit United States Department of Justice analysis and review concerning compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act.

Changing the form of government would be one of the most dramatic and important actions a municipality can take. Any consideration of these issues should ensure that all aspects of the potential modifications are fully considered. In addition, issues such as, compensation, term of office, term limits, qualifications, residency, etc. are all matters that are inter-related and which need to be considered.

If the City Commission is convinced, that either of the above mentioned changes are necessary, the Board believes there is not enough time to inform the public about the consequences of their vote at this time. Proceeding without further deliberation and public participation would leave many questions unanswered and improperly affect the outcome of the referendum. Following a full public process, the City Commission would have all relevant information to make an informed decision on whether to present these significant charter changes to the public for an informed vote.

Charter Review and Revision Board
August 24, 2004
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With regard to the transportation issues (i.e. 63rd Street Flyover and the Bay Link project), this Board has no jurisdiction and thus takes no position.

The above recommendations were unanimously endorsed by the Board and are respectfully submitted to you for your careful consideration. In conclusion, we believe The Charter is a good governing document for the citizens of Miami Beach. We appreciate having been given the opportunity to serve the Commission and the citizens of Miami Beach.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman Steve Zack

Vice-Chair Jonathan Beloff

Board Member Ricky Arriola

Board Member Victor Diaz

Board Member Seymour Gelber

Board Member Larry Herrup

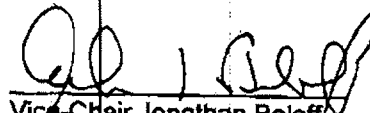
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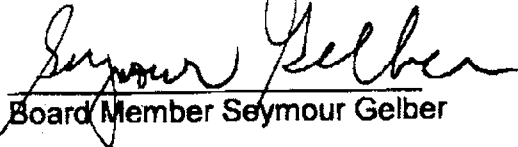
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